

The claims defining the invention are as follows:

1. A method of conceptually magnifying video browser data, said data being organised hierarchically in one or more levels, the method comprising the steps of:

5 selecting a parent level, said parent level selection making visible a first key frame associated with said parent level;

choosing one of a parent-only and a parent-children magnification mode; and

10 performing conceptual magnification; said conceptual magnification displaying, in the parent-only mode, the first key frame associated with said parent level and other frames which are also associated with said parent level; and said conceptual magnification displaying, in the parent-children mode, the first key frame associated with said parent level and second key frames associated with an associated children level.

2. A method according to claim 1; wherein in the parent-only mode said conceptual magnification performing step is accompanied by a further step of:

displaying a first area of the GUI adjacent to said first key frame, and first corresponding areas of the GUI adjacent to said other frames; and wherein in the parent-children mode, said conceptual magnification performing step is accompanied by a further step of:

20 displaying a second area of the GUI adjacent to said first key frame, and second corresponding areas of the GUI adjacent to said second key frames.

3. A method according to claim 1; wherein in the parent-only mode, said conceptual magnification performing step comprises sub-steps of:

displaying the first key frame associated with said parent level for a first time interval; and

displaying the other frames which are also associated with said parent level for a second time interval; and wherein in the parent-children mode, said performing step 5 comprises sub-steps of:

displaying the first key frame associated with said parent level for a third time interval; and

displaying said second key frames associated with said associated children level for a fourth time interval.

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4. A method according to claim 1, wherein said first and second key frames, and said other frames, comprise one or more of text and image data.

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5. An apparatus for conceptually magnifying video browser data, said data being organised hierarchically in one or more levels, the apparatus comprising:

parent level selection means for selecting a parent level, said parent level selection making visible a first key frame associated with said parent level;

magnification mode selection means for choosing one of a parent-only and a parent-children magnification mode;

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conceptual magnification means for performing conceptual magnification; and display means, for displaying, in the parent-only mode, the first key frame associated with said parent level and other frames which are also associated with said parent level; and for displaying, in the parent-children mode, the first key frame associated with said parent level and second key frames associated with an associated 25 children level.

6. An apparatus according to claim 5; wherein:

5 said display means is adapted, in the parent-only mode, for displaying a first area of the GUI adjacent to said first key frame, and first corresponding areas of the GUI adjacent to said other frames; and wherein:

in the parent-children mode, said display means is adapted for displaying a second area of the GUI adjacent to said first key frame, and second corresponding areas of the GUI adjacent to said second key frames.

10 7. An apparatus according to claim 5, wherein representations of the hierarchically organised video data levels are spatially disposed in relation to selection means, which selection means comprises a radially adjustable pointer whose radial orientation relative to the representations is indicative of the hierarchical level to be selected.

15 8. An apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising an adjustable scrolling means which is adapted, in response to an adjustment of said adjustable scrolling means, to linearly translate the representations of the hierarchically organised video data levels in relation to the selection means, thereby effecting a change in the 20 radial orientation of the selection means relative to the representations, said changed radial orientation relative to the representations being indicative of the hierarchical level to be selected.

9. A computer program product comprising a computer program for apparatus for conceptually magnifying video browser data, said data being organised hierarchically in one or more levels, the program comprising:

code for a selecting step for selecting a parent level, said parent level selection
5 making visible a first key frame associated with said parent level;

code for a magnification mode selection step for choosing one of a parent-only
and a parent-children magnification mode; and

code for a conceptual magnification step for performing conceptual
magnification; said conceptual magnification displaying, in the parent-only mode, the
10 first key frame associated with said parent level and other frames which are also
associated with said parent level; and said conceptual magnification displaying, in the
parent-children mode, the first key frame associated with said parent level and second key
frames associated with an associated children level.

15 10. A computer program according to claim 9; wherein in the parent-only
mode said code for said conceptual magnification performing step is accompanied by
code for a further step of:

displaying a first area of the GUI adjacent to said first key frame, and first
corresponding areas of the GUI adjacent to said other frames; and wherein in the parent-
20 children mode, said code for said conceptual magnification performing step is
accompanied by code for a further step of:

displaying a second area of the GUI adjacent to said first key frame, and second
corresponding areas of the GUI adjacent to said second key frames.

11. A computer program product according to claim 9; wherein in the parent-only mode, said code for the conceptual magnification step comprises code for sub-steps of:

5 displaying the first key frame associated with said parent level for a first time interval; and

displaying the other frames which are also associated with said parent level for a second time interval; and wherein in the parent-children mode, said code for the conceptual magnification step comprises code for sub-steps of:

10 displaying the first key frame associated with said parent level for a third time interval; and

displaying said second key frames associated with said associated children level for a fourth time interval.

12. A computer program product according to claim 9, wherein said first and second key frames, and said other frames, comprise one or more of text and image data.